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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Susan M. Duncan

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Serial No.: 09/881,856

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Examiner: Reis, Travis M.

Title: SPACE CONFIGURATION DESIGN TOOL

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**

TO THE COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS:

Please enter the following amendments to the specification and claims:

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 1 with the following rewritten paragraph:

B<sup>1</sup>

--As shown with specific reference to FIGURES 1, 4 and 5, wand 50 of the design tool is preferably made out of molded plastic, is oval shaped (for added structural strength), and is sized to allow a user to comfortably hold one end of the wand while supporting movement of the icon figure and base as it is used with a design plan. In the preferred embodiment, the wand is tapered and the opening is correspondingly tapered to receive one end of the wand. It will be appreciated that the wand may be made out of different materials, and may vary in specific shape and size, so long as it functions to support the weight of the icon figure and allows comfortable usage. More specifically, one end of wand 50 is inserted into opening 32 of chair back 30 of icon figure 20. The wand is maintained in the opening in a variety of ways. In the preferred embodiment, with the larger scale icon figures, one end of the wand includes a magnet 36. The end of the wand with the magnet is inserted into opening 32 against metal plate 34, thereby removably connecting the wand to the icon figure. Alternatively, the wand may be maintained in the opening of the icon figure by frictional contact of the wand to the interior of the opening. For example, due to size restrictions, the 1/8" scale icon figure has a smaller tapered wand and does not use a metal plate-magnet combination, relying on frictional contact. Further alternative means of maintaining the wand in the opening to support the icon figure and the base are contemplated. For example, the end of the wand to be inserted into the opening could further include ridges or locks corresponding to ridges or locks located within the opening. In such an embodiment, the wand is snap-fit into place to secure the wand during operation, yet can, upon use of additional applied



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